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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

OF THE

Rural District

OF

Mitford and Launditch, Norfolk.

EAST DEREHAM:
PRINTED BY G. ARTHUR COLEBY, BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER, MARKET PLACE
1950

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STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

N. E. D. CARTLEDGE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
(To 30th June, 1946).

S. T. G. GRAY, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
(Temporary, from 1st July to 24th August)

C. S. THOMSON, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.
(From 25th August, 1946)

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

W. H. EDWARDS, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Temporary Sanitary Inspector :

G. DAVIES
(From 1st September, 1946)

MITFORD & LAUNDITCH RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for 1946

Section A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area, (in acres), ...	102,371
Population, Census 1931, ...	17,107
,, (R. G's estimate), ...	17,250
Number of inhabited houses, (1946), ...	5,192
Rateable value, ...	£48,721
Sum represented by a penny rate	£210

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population for the last six years varied as follows :

1940	...	16,050	1943	...	17,720
1941	...	16,900	1944	...	17,180
1942	...	17,340	1945	...	17,090

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

			Total	M	F
Live Births	Legitimate	...	309	154	155
	Illegitimate	...	24	12	12

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 19·3

			Total	M	F
Still Births	Legitimate	...	10	6	4
	Illegitimate	...	1	1	—

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still), births 31·9

	Total	M	F
Deaths	214	106	108

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 12·4

Deaths from Cancer, (all ages)	... ...	39
,, Measles, (all ages)	... ...	Nil
,, Diarrhœa, (under 2 years of age)	...	3

It is satisfactory to record that, for the seventh year in succession, there were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other puerperal causes.

Infant Mortality Rate :

(a).	All infants per 1,000 live births	66
(b).	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	65
(c).	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	125

The Birth Rate, (19·3, is 1·6 higher than in 1945 and compares favourably with the rate for England and Wales which is 19·1.

The proportion of illegitimate births has decreased from 15% last year to 7·2% in the year under review.

There were 22 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving a rate of 66 per 1,000 live births.

The Death Rate, (12·4), is 1·2 higher than in the previous year as compared with the rate for England and Wales which is 11·5.

Section B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Public Health Staff of the Rural District Council consists of a part-time Medical Officer of Health, a Sanitary Inspector, who is a certified Inspector of Meat and other foods, an additional temporary Sanitary Inspector (appointed on 1st September, 1946).

The County Isolation Hospital at Dereham has accommodation for 96 beds. Huts provide accommodation for an additional 29 beds. Shortage of nursing and domestic staff has prevented full use being made of the accommodation available. 10 Patients from the District were admitted during the year.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The number of children immunised during 1946 is as follows :

1-4 years	5-14 years	Reinforcing injections (All ages)
229	144	90

Section C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(1) Drainage and Sewerage.

The reconstruction of the sewer at Scarning has been approved by the Ministry of Health and work will proceed as soon as materials and labour are available.

Part of the open sewer ditch in Whissonsett was piped in, thereby abating the long standing nuisance in this Parish.

5 Open sewer ditches were cleaned out during the year.

Litcham sewer has been partially reconstructed with the addition of a filter bed and is working as satisfactorily as conditions will allow.

North Elmham—The main drain in the street which takes sewage and road surface water was cleaned and put in order as far as possible pending reconstruction.

(2). Closet Accommodation.

Seven insanitary vaults were converted to Pail Closets during the past year.

(3). SCAVENGING.

Parish Council Meetings were attended at Litcham, Shipdham, Yaxham, Great Fransham, North Elmham and Lyng at which schemes were discussed for the improvement of the existing arrangements, or the inception of new schemes for the collection of night soil and refuse. The Shipdham and Litcham schemes were revised and an improved and better service has resulted. It is hoped that more Parishes will be formulating schemes in the near future.

Refuse dumps are regularly inspected. An organised collection with proper disposal of refuse would assist in removing the unsightly litter of tins etc. from the countryside and at the same time the potential menace to health.

(4). WATER SUPPLIES.

Water is chiefly obtained from shallow wells. During the year 66 samples were submitted for chemical or bacteriological examination. Of these 11 were found to be unsatisfactory and 9 were doubtful.

6 Wells were cleaned out and repaired.

The Scarning scheme to supply 24 houses with water from Dereham has been approved and will be commenced as soon as materials and labour are available.

(5) SALVAGE.

There is no organised collection in this area.

Section D. HOUSING

Number of houses erected during the Year:

(i)	By the Local Authority	...	18
(ii)	By other bodies or persons	...	2

21 Special visits were made with regard to over-crowding and 6 families provided with additional accommodation.

221 Inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector under the Housing and Public Health Acts, as the result of which 65 Informal Notices were served.

14 Statutory Notices were served under the Public Health Acts.

This led to the repair and improvement of existing housing accommodation, and it was only necessary to take court proceedings in one case.

148 Special visits were made in connection with applications for building licences. 71 Interviews took place with owners and builders to discuss problems and difficulties connected with these applications.

Section E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926:

Number of Accredited Producers at the end of the year	79
Number of T. T. Producers at the end of the year	24

An increasing number of cowkeepers are improving their methods, and thereby qualifying for designation as Accredited and T. T. producers.

146 Visits were made to cowsheds and dairies resulting in 14 cowsheds and dairies being reconstructed and improved.

A total number of 55 milk samples were taken from January to June 1946. 40 Were found satisfactory; 6 failed on the first test, but passed on the second test; 1 failed on the second test, but subsequently passed.

The County Council took over sampling from Accredited herds on the 1st July, 1946.

40 Samples were also submitted for biological examination against the presence of T.B. and proved negative.

The United Dairies Creameries at North Elmham were inspected while in operation and during the rest periods. A high standard, based on cleanliness and sterilisation of all milk receptacles, is the aim of this firm.

Food Inspections.

Bake Houses inspected	8
Fried Fish Shops and other premises ...	8
Butchers Shops	8

There is one manufacturer of Ice Cream in this district. Improvement of the premises and installation of modern plant are in progress.

The duties of meat inspection at the central slaughter house in East Dereham were equally shared with the Sanitary Inspector of East Dereham Urban District Council by mutual arrangement.

Unfit Food Stuffs.

15 Cwt. of dry and tinned foods were found unfit for human consumption and either destroyed or processed for animal feeding.

Rural Housing Survey.

This important work was commenced during September by the additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. Davies. Up to end of the year 279 houses were inspected and placed in their respective categories.

Section F PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ..	1	—	—
Diphtheria	2	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia . ..	3	—	—
Pneumonia	10	1	8
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	29	—	—
Measles	161	—	—
Gastro-enteritis . ..	1	—	—
Malaria	4	—	—
Infectious Hepatitis ..	7	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—

There were two outbreaks of measles, confined largely to school children, which occurred in the first and third quarters of 1946. This compares favourably with 1945 when there was a widespread outbreak, 302 notifications being received.

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES BY AGE GROUPS.

	0-1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-64	65 & over
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	...	...	2	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Whooping Cough	1	4	1	2	2	14	2	..	1	...	2	...
Measles	1	13	12	7	11	73	24	7	8	2	3	...
Gastro-enteritis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...
Infectious Hepatitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	1	...	...
Dysentery	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	..
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TUBERCULOSIS.

17 Cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year. The comparative figures for the preceding three years, 1943, 1944 and 1945, were 22, 22 and 13 respectively.

The incidence of these 17 cases by type and age group is shown in the following table:—

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 — 14	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
15 — 24	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
25 — 34	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 44	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	1
45 — 54	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 64	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	5	6	2	4	3	—	—	1

All the fatal cases had been notified before death.

At the end of the year there were 141 cases of tuberculosis on the District Register, 68 respiratory and 73 non-respiratory.

The death rate from tuberculosis was ·23 per 1,000 population, as compared with 2·8 per 1,000 population in 1945.

CHARLES S. THOMSON,

Medical Officer of Health.